

## DEQ in the Classroom:

# The Landfill Loafers Meet the Wise Buys



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### Grade Level:

4<sup>th</sup> Grade

### Objective:

To teach students about recyclable materials, proper disposal of these items, and waste materials that can be recycled.

### Materials:

- ✓ Clean recyclable products
- ✓ Aluminum can
- ✓ Plastic milk jug
- ✓ Newspaper
- ✓ Several examples of recycled-content items such as paper, plastic, and carpet. (See list at end of lesson.) Examples can be the actual item or a picture or sign of the item.

The teacher will provide construction paper signs for students to hold which represent "landfill loafers" and "wise buys."

### Background:

The teacher will explain to students that too many products are often used once and then thrown away. Some common examples are plastic milk jugs, the daily newspaper, and aluminum cans. These items are then deposited into a landfill with all kinds of waste items. They may lie in a landfill for hundreds of years, becoming "Landfill Loafers." However, many of these products could have a useful life after their initial use if their owner would recycle them. Items that are recycled instead of thrown away can be made into new products, the "Wise Buys." Some of these new products may surprise them.

### Procedures:

Select several students who can represent the "Landfill Loafers." These students will stand in front of the class and hold a sign which represents an item that could be recycled such as an aluminum can, a newspaper, a glass container or a plastic milk jug. The number of "Landfill Loafers" can be as comprehensive as students' ages or time permits. Other students will represent the "Wise Buys,"

which are the new products made in part or completely from recycled products. Once again, the list can be as lengthy as age and time permit. The students representing "Wise Buys" will try to determine from which "Landfill Loafer" their product was made. The "Wise Buys" will take their place behind the appropriate "Landfill Loafer." (See list at end of lesson). The teacher will discuss with students which "Wise Buys" were made from which "Landfill Loafer."

#### Landfill Loafers...and some matching Wise Buys

1. Aluminum cans become new soda cans, siding for a house, support poles for a playscape, roofing.
2. Glass containers become new glass packaging, decorative tiles, reflective paint for roads, filtration systems, aggregate for road base.
3. Paper becomes new writing paper, building insulation, cereal boxes, cardboard, bath and facial tissue, paper towels, paper plates, file folders, 3-ring binders.
4. Plastics become plant pots, plastic lumber, can liners, lawn furniture, clothing, car bumpers, drain pipes, pallets, marine piers, decking lumber, playground equipment, park benches.
5. Tires are made into marine habitats, crash barriers, playground ground cover, parking stops, soaker hoses, roofing.
6. Steel food cans become appliances, auto parts, construction beams, new steel cans.

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